

had a procedural vote on H.R. 2859, the FY 2003 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations bill. On House rollcall vote No. 448, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

#### HONORING PARADISE BAPTIST CHURCH

#### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 3, 2003*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Paradise Baptist Church of Oakland, and its pastor, Reverend Leon McDaniels, Sr. Today marks the dedication celebration of the new Paradise Baptist Church Worship Center.

Paradise Baptist Church had its beginning in February 1960. Rev. C. William Johnson was the assistant pastor at the First Baptist Parchester Church of Richmond, California when he was called to begin a church in the Columbian Gardens area of Oakland. He set out with four volunteers and went door to door sharing their vision for a new community of the spirit. In May 1960, a meeting was called and the Paradise Baptist Mission was organized. In August of that year, Paradise was officially founded and established as the Paradise Baptist Church with Rev. C. William Johnson as pastor.

Paradise Baptist Church has had many homes over the years. Early on, Pastor Johnson purchased a home with his Veterans Administration certificate and converted it into a house of worship. In November 1963, a house on Empire Road was purchased, and the church moved to this location.

By 1968, a larger facility was needed. A church was constructed adjacent to the house where the congregation had been worshipping, but by 1970 even that building was too small. Many of the faithful financed the building project by taking out second mortgages and borrowing funds which they donated unconditionally. On the third Sunday of August 1972, the new sanctuary was complete.

Over the next 10 years, Paradise experienced substantial growth, and in 1988, Pastor Johnson brought in Rev. Leon McDaniels, Sr. as the full-time evangelism coordinator. Rev. McDaniels' spark and enthusiasm spread throughout the entire church body.

On September 17, 1993, Pastor Johnson's time on earth came to an end, leaving the Paradise family filled with grief. Following a period of mourning, Rev. Leon McDaniels, Sr. took office as the new pastor and vowed to make a significant difference in the Columbian Gardens community, and in all of Oakland.

There has been great growth during the tenure of Pastor McDaniels. Today, numerous ministries are available to the congregation, including the Prayer Ministry, Soul-Winning Ministry, Christian Education Training, Alpha Omega Youth Ministry, Pastoral Care, Wistar Redemption and Recovery, Inc., Financial Management, Real Estate Ministry (the HUD Home Buyers Program), Married Couples Ministry, Singles Ministry, Camp Ministry and Political Liaison Ministry.

Pastor McDaniels realized a larger facility was sorely needed. By faith, the groundbreaking ceremony was held in August 17, 1997. Once again, the membership

stepped in and made contributions and personal sacrifices in their commitment to further the ministry.

The congregation has been blessed with the New Paradise Baptist Church Worship Center located at 9704 Empire Road in Oakland, California.

The Paradise Baptist Church family has come a long way since its humble beginning in 1960. Rev. C. William Johnson knew 43 years ago that Paradise would make a difference in the city of Oakland. This vision has come to fruition under the leadership of Pastor Leon McDaniels, Sr. with a congregation of more than 400 members and numerous ministries that reach out to the community.

I take great pride in joining friends, family, and the congregation to salute Paradise Baptist Church and its leader, the extraordinary Pastor Leon McDaniels, Sr. on this auspicious dedication.

#### HONORING GENERAL A.J. COMTE

#### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 3, 2003*

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to posthumously recognize General A.J. Comte for his years of distinguished service to his country. A.J. passed away on Sunday, August 3rd.

General Comte began his 50-year military career in 1945 when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. After four years of active service, he went on to serve in the Air National Guard, Army National Guard, and the U.S. Army Reserve. During his service he received numerous military decorations including: the Army Meritorious Service Medal, WWII Victory Medal, Army Reserve Components Medal, and the California Medal of Merit.

After his service, A.J. worked at the City of Fresno Construction Management Division as Chief Engineering Inspector. Following his retirement, he became self-employed and provided school inspection services in the Bakersfield, Porterville, and Clovis School Districts. He also served as the DSA Inspector of Record for several projects in the Clovis Unified School District including Copper Hills Elementary, the Buchanan Educational Center, and the Reagan Educational Complex.

General Comte was also greatly involved in his community. He was an active 32-Degree Mason; a member of the Fresno Scottish Rite, Clovis Elks, National Sojourners; and active in several military, veteran, and construction associations. He is survived by his wife Trudie; son, Alan James; step-children, Karen Palazzola, Kathy Gray-Wagner, Gordon Gray, Mary Craig, and Carl Husband; and several grand and great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to posthumously honor General A.J. Comte. I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing General Comte for his extraordinary service and years of dedication to his community.

IN HONOR OF THE POTOMAC TRAIL COUNCIL'S RECEIPT OF A 2003 CHESAPEAKE BAY GATEWAYS NETWORK GRANT

#### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, September 3, 2003*

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker I rise today to recognize the Potomac Trail Council. The Potomac Trail Council received a 2003 Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network Grant for a project designed to improve access and interpretation along a one mile section of trail in Piscataway Park and Fort Washington Park in Accokeek, Maryland.

The Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network, which includes more than 120 museums, state parks, wildlife refuges and other sites in five states and the District of Columbia, was created to enhance the experience of visitors to the Chesapeake Bay and its many roads, rivers and trails. Authorized by the Chesapeake Bay Initiative Act of 1998, the Gateways Network is coordinated by the National Park Service in partnership with the Chesapeake Bay Program.

During the past four years, Gateways Network Grants have funded new maps, improved signs, and expanded trails that have made visits to parks, wildlife refuges and water trails even more exciting and enjoyable than they had previously been. These grants help enhance the public's ability to learn and enjoy the Chesapeake's stories and significance, explore its natural and cultural resources, and become involved in helping conserve and restore the Bay and its watershed. Through these projects and other Gateways Network efforts more and more people recognize the Chesapeake as a true national treasure.

In 2003, the National Park Service is awarding \$1,387,309 in grant funding, matched by over \$2 million in partner contributions. Thirty-two grants are being made to Gateways throughout the Bay watershed in Maryland, New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia. The Potomac Trail Council is receiving a grant of \$40,500 and \$45,300 in partner contributions.

The project proposed by the Potomac Trail Council will make significant improvements to access and interpretation along a one mile section of trail in Piscataway Park. The route, which parallels Piscataway Creek (a tributary of the Potomac River) will be improved through several measures to control erosion and puddling, including the addition of permeable surface materials, french drains, and culverts. Six interpretive waysides and other signs will also be developed to provide trail users with key information and interpret features along the route. The Potomac Trail Council will coordinate work on the project in collaboration with park staff.

Mr. Speaker, it is with the assistance and vision of organizations such as the Potomac Trail Council that the Chesapeake Bay and the entire region has become the treasure that we know it to be today. Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating the Potomac Trail Council on receiving this grant and wishing them the best of luck in completing their project.